

# 11.0 HUMAN SERVICES ELEMENT

## 11.1 INTRODUCTION

Major land use and development decisions have important physical, economic, social, and environmental implications that must be considered by public officials during any planning process. A Human Services Element to the General Plan provides one avenue for bringing human concerns into the physical planning process.

The Human Services Element expands the General Plan's perspective in assessing residents' needs and available resources. The Human Services Element is the Town's policy statement outlining the basic process for determining the Town's role and responsibilities pertaining to the broad areas of human services. Human Services are those services in the community, both public and private, designed especially to meet the social, health, communication, education and artistic needs of people. Through an effective Human Services Element the Town will assist individuals and families in achieving and maintaining high levels of social well-being, leading to a more positive, and satisfied community.

The Town should be involved in resolving human needs, but not necessarily directly delivering services. The Town recognizes the value of public and private agencies working together to effectively deliver services and also recognizes the benefits of long-range planning. The Town may assume any of the following four roles in order to assist in developing more effective delivery of Human Services in Los Gatos:

- ☐ Resource Coordinator
- ☐ Educator/Advocate
- ☐ Catalyst/Facilitator
- ☐ Evaluator

## 11.2 GOALS, POLICIES, IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

### ISSUE: 1

Los Gatos has a diverse population which includes many senior citizens. The Town should identify the needs of our senior citizens and develop programs to meet those needs.

#### Goal:

- HS.G.1.1 To coordinate and provide programs for social interaction for senior citizens.

#### Policies:

- HS.P.1.1 The Town shall act as a clearinghouse for social programs provided by other agencies and groups that provide aid for social problems.
- HS.P.1.2 The Town shall set funding priorities annually which include funds for senior needs.

*Social Needs*

*Health  
Issues*

**Implementing Strategies:**

- HS.I.1.1 Continue to annually review social programs offered by the Town and other agencies to determine if they meet the needs of seniors.

Time Frame: Annually  
Responsible Party: Community Services Commission

- HS.I.1.2 Continue to use the local media and Town newsletter to promote senior programs.

Time Frame: On-going  
Responsible Party: Community Services Department

**ISSUE: 2**

The Town of Los Gatos wants to help assure a healthy community.

**Goal:**

- HS.G.2.1 To assure resources and programs are available for the health needs of the entire community, including children and senior citizens.

**Policies:**

- HS.P.2.1 Encourage the retention of three nearby hospitals.
- HS.P.2.2 Identify health services that are either not readily available or may need some public funding.

**Implementing Strategies:**

- HS.I.2.1 Annually review programs the Town supports to assure they meet the health needs of target groups.

Time Frame: Annually  
Responsible Party: Community Service Commission

- HS.I.2.2 Coordinate and promote through the media health services provided by other agencies to local residents of target groups.

Time Frame: On-going  
Responsible Party: Community Services Department

**ISSUE: 3**

The town should protect and promote its cultural resources. These resources include theaters, museums, art galleries, and public art.

**Goal:**

- HS.G.3.1 To make art and other cultural resources more accessible to the Town's residents.

**Policies:**

- HS.P.3.1 Encourage art related uses (theaters, museums, art galleries) in new and remodeled retail development.

*Cultural  
Resources*

HS.P.3.2 Encourage public art in all new development.

**Implementing Strategies:**

HS.I.3.1 limit the conversion of museums and theaters to non-art related uses.

Time Frame: On-going

Responsible Party: Planning and Community Services

HS.I.3.2 Develop design guidelines to encourage incorporation of art and art-related uses in new and remodel developments.

Time Frame: 2001 -2002

Responsible Party: Community Services, Arts Commission

**ISSUE 4**

The Town should attract and encourage the performing arts in Los Gatos. This would include live theater, music and dance.

**Goal:**

HS.G.4.1 To enrich the Town through the performing arts.

**Policies:**

HS.P.4.1 Continue to support music in the plaza.

HS.P.4.2 Encourage public and private facilities to host performing art events.

**Implementing Strategies:**

HS.I.4.1 Study the feasibility of town supported performing arts events.

Time Frame: 2002 - 2003

Responsible Party: Community Services

HS.I.4.2 Study the feasibility of a performing arts center for the Town, including options for location and financing.

Time Frame: 2002 -2003

Responsible Party: Community Services, Arts Commission

**ISSUE 5**

The Los Gatos Library facility needs to be upgraded and expanded to accommodate new technology and to meet the Town's information and education needs.

**Goal:**

HS.G.5.1 To provide a library facility that will accommodate library services to meet the educational and informational needs of the community.

**Policies:**

HS.P.5.1 Provide the minimum library facility standards of the American Library Association.

*Performing Arts*

*Library*

- HS.P.5.2 Build a new library facility that will be efficient, flexible and expandable to accommodate the changing informational and educational needs of the community.

**Implementing Strategies:**

- HS.I.5.1 Proceed with planning for a new library facility that will accommodate changing technology and increased information and education needs of Los Gatos for the next twenty years.

Time Frame: 2001 - 2003

Responsible Party: Library

- HS.I.5.2 Investigate various funding mechanisms.

Time Frame: On-going

Responsible Party: Library

**ISSUE 6**

Quality education is important to the residents of the Town. However, while local land use and development decisions may impact school facilities, mitigation for school impacts required of developers, which may be limited by State Legislation or other factor.

**Goal:**

- HS.G.6.1 To maintain a system of open communications between the Town, school districts and the development community in order to coordinate the activities of each to achieve the highest quality of education for all public schools students.

**Policies:**

- HS.P.6.1 Encourage developers to engage in early discussions with the Town and school districts regarding a project, its potential impacts on schools and the potential to reduce impacts. These discussions should occur as early as possible in the project planning stage, preferably preceding land acquisition.
- HS.P.6.2 Cooperate with school districts in identifying and evaluating population and demographic changes that may impact schools.

**Implementing Strategies:**

- HS.I.6.1 Major Development Applications: Amend Town development applications to require applicants to contact the affected school districts to discuss the impacts of the proposed development.

Time Frame: 2002 - 2003

Responsible Party: Planning

## **Issue 7**

The Town is committed to the needs of children and therefore encourages and develops programs that provide services to meet those needs.

### **Goal:**

HS.G.7.1 To recognize the special needs of children.

### **Policies:**

HS.P.7.1 The Town shall interact with applicable agencies and entities that provide children's services to ensure their needs are met.

### **Implementing Strategies:**

HS.I.7.1 Meet with agencies as needed to identify the needs of children in the community and to coordinate providing adequate programs such as childcare services.

<u>Time Frame:</u>	On-going
<u>Responsible Party:</u>	Community Services